

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 172195
ORIGIN STR-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 STRE-00 AGRE-00 COME-00
INT-05 LAB-04 EB-08 CEA-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 FRB-03
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 CTME-00
AID-05 SS-15 ITC-01 TRSE-00 ICA-11 SP-02 SOE-02
OMB-01 DOE-15 /126 R

DRAFTED BY STR : DSABELSON
APPROVED BY STR : DWHITNACK
USDA: PLETARTE
DOC: RSUPPE-BLANEY
DOI: HANDERSEN
DOL: DPARKER
STATE: TO'HERRON

-----059166 080305Z /64

P R 072255Z JUL 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
INFO USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

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USMTN, USEEC

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ERTD, MTN

SUBJECT: IMPLEMENTATION OF PROPOSED GATT STANDARDS IN KEY
EC MEMBER STATES

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PAGE 02 STATE 172195

1. WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF THE MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS
(MTN), A PROPOSED CODE OF CONDUCT FOR PREVENTING TECHNICAL
BARRIERS TO TRADE -- A STANDARDS CODE -- IS UNDER DISCUSSION
(GATT DOCUMENT NUMBER MTN/NTM/W/150, MARCH 29, 1978). THE
CODE WOULD ESTABLISH INTERNATIONAL PROCEDURES FOR THE PRE-
PARATION, ADOPTION, AND APPLICATION OF STANDARDS AND CERTI-
FICATION SYSTEMS. REGARDING THE OBLIGATION TO ENSURE THAT

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CODE ARE ADHERED TO, THE CODE CONTAINS TWO DIFFERENT LEVELS: A FIRST OR "SHALL" LEVEL FOR THE STANDARDS ACTIVITIES OF CENTRAL GOVERNMENTS, AND A SECOND OR "BEST EFFORTS" OBLIGATION FOR CENTRAL GOVERNMENTS VIS-A-VIS THE STANDARDS ACTIVITIES OF STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND PRIVATE SECTOR ORGANIZATIONS.

2. IN NOVEMBER, 1977, THE EC PROPOSED, IN INFORMAL PLURAL LATERAL MEETINGS ON THE STANDARDS CODE, THAT CENTRAL GOVERNMENTS TAKE ON INTERNATIONAL RESPONSIBILITY WITH REGARD TO THE STANDARDS ACTIVITIES OF OTHER THAN CENTRAL GOVERNMENT ENTITIES. SPECIFICALLY, THE EC PROPOSAL STATES, BEGIN

QUOTE FAILURE BY ADHERENTS TO ACHIEVE RESULTS UNDER SECTIONS 3,4,7,8,11,12,16(B) (THAT CONTAIN THE SECOND LEVEL OF OBLIGATION), IN REGARD TO BODIES WITHIN THEIR TERRITORIES, IDENTICAL TO THOSE THEY ARE REQUIRED TO ACHIEVE UNDER EQUIVALENT PROVISIONS IN SECTIONS 2,5,6,9,16(A) (THAT CONTAIN THE FIRST LEVEL OF OBLIGATION), SHALL BE DEEMED TO CONSTITUTE NULLIFICATION OR IMPAIRMENT OF BENEFITS UNDER THE CODE AND SHALL BE SUBJECT TO THE ENFORCEMENT PROCEDURES SET OUT UNDER (A) TO (C) ABOVE. END QUOTE.

3. DURING THE NEXT WEEK THE UNITED STATES WILL BE UNDER PRESSURE IN THE FINAL DAYS BEFORE THE JULY 15 MTN DEADLINE, TO COME TO SOME AGREEMENT WITH THE EC ON THEIR PROPOSAL. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 STATE 172195

WE HAVE BEEN TOLD BY THE EC GENEVA DELEGATION THAT THEIR PROPOSAL HAS RECEIVED SERIOUS CONSIDERATION BY ALL MEMBER STATES, AND THAT IT RECEIVED THE APPROVAL OF THE 113 COMMITTEE. WE HAVE SERIOUS QUESTIONS WHETHER OR NOT ALL MEMBER STATES COULD IMPLEMENT A FIRST LEVEL OF OBLIGATION VIS-A-VIS THE STANDARDS ACTIVITIES OF THEIR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND PRIVATE SECTOR ORGANIZATIONS, AS PROPOSED BY THE EC.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: NO LATER THAN JULY 12, AMEMBASSY SHOULD REPORT ON CONTACTS WITH RELEVANT CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AS TO WHETHER THEY HAVE THE AUTHORITY OVER LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND PRIVATE SECTOR ORGANIZATIONS TO ENSURE COMPLIANCE, AS REQUIRED BY A FIRST LEVEL OF OBLIGATION. IF PROBLEMS ARE ENVISIONED, OF WHAT NATURE WOULD THEY BE? ARE THEY SIGNIFICANT ENOUGH TO INDICATE THAT CENTRAL GOVERNMENTS COULD NOT TAKE ON THE FIRST LEVEL OF OBLIGATION?

5. NAME OF MAJOR PRIVATE SECTOR STANDARDS ORGANIZATIONS AND PERCENT OF CENTRAL GOVERNMENT FUNDING FOR EACH POST IS PROVIDED BELOW:

(A) BONN: DEUTSCHES INSTITUT FUER NORMUNG(DIN);15 PERCENT.

(B) COPENHAGEN: DANSK STANDARDISERINGSRAAD(DS); 61 PERCENT.

(C) LONDON: BRITISH STANDARDS INSTITUTION(BSI); 25 PERCENT.

(D) PARIS: ASSOCIATION FRANCAISE DE NORMALISATION(AFNOR);
50 PERCENT. VANCE

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Message Attributes

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